

COVERAGE NAME : GEONAMEA

COVERAGE AREA: COUNTY

COVERAGE DESCRIPTION:

The 'GEONAMEA' layer contains the locations and names of features of interest in California. The source of this point coverage is the U.S. Geological Survey's Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) datafiles. These files are compiled mainly from USGS map products such as the 7.5' 1:24,000 quads. There are 59 different types of features in the coverage. Users should remember that these feature types are not exhaustive. For example, reselecting schools will not give you every California school, but it will furnish a large number of school locations. The features presented are the same ones as seen on USGS map sheets.

This layer is useful for furnishing landmarks on plots. It can also serve as a base data layer. The features help to orient the viewer and give a sense of scale to the plot. There is some overlap with the PLACES layer (populated places). If this causes problems, reselect type = ppl, then nselect.

VITAL STATISTICS:

Datum:	NAD 83
Projection:	Albers
Units:	Meters
1st Std. Parallel:	34 00 00 (34.0 degrees N)
2nd Std. Parallel:	40 30 00 (40.5 degrees N)
Longitude of Origin:	-120 00 00 (120.0 degrees W)
Latitude of Origin:	00 00 00 (0.0 degrees)
False Easting (X shift):	0
False Northing (Y shift):	-4,000,000
Source:	USGS Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)
Source Media:	Magnetic tape; digital file in ASCII format
Source Projection:	Geographic (latitude/longitude)
Source Units:	Degrees
Source Scale:	various
Capture Method:	data conversion
Conversion Software	ARC/INFO rev. 5.0.1
Data Structure:	Vector
ARC/INFO Coverage Type:	Point
ARC/INFO Precision:	Single
ARC/INFO Tolerances:	Not applicable
Number of Features:	6,889
Layer Size:	56.579 MB
Data Updated:	September 1992

DATA DICTIONARY:

DATAFILE NAME: GEONAMEA.PAT
RECORD LENGTH: 81

Non-standard POINT attribute fields:

COLUMN	ITEM NAME	WIDTH	OUTPUT	TYPE	N.DEC
17	NAME	47	47	C	-
64	TYPE	10	10	C	-
74	X-COORD	4	12	F	3
78	Y-COORD	4	12	F	3

NOTE: Items common to all POINT coverages: AREA, PERIMETER, GEONAMEA# and GEONAMEA-ID are not described here.

NAME: The name of the geographic feature.

TYPE: The feature type as classified by USGS.

Valid TYPES are:

arch	cape	gap	mine	slope
area	cave	glacier	other	spring
bar	cem	gut	park	stream
basin	channel	harbor	pillar	summit
bay	church	hosp	plain	swamp
beach	civil	hospita	ppl	tank
bench	cliff	island	range	trail
bend	crater	lake	rapids	tunnel
bldg	dam	lava	reserve	valley
bridge	falls	levee	reservo	well
buildin	flat	locale	ridge	woods
canal	forest	militar	school	

X-COORD : The X coordinate of the location in meters.

Y-COORD : The Y coordinate of the location in meters.

The following information is extracted from the Geographic Names Information System Data Users Guide 6, Department of the Interior, U.S Geological Survey, 1987.

APPENDIX B.--Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) Feature Class Definitions

The feature class terms and abbreviations currently consist of nine or fewer letters and were chosen for computer search and retrieval purposes. They do not necessarily represent terminology for the identification of all kinds of cultural and natural features. Although some of the terms may agree with dictionary definitions, they represent more generalized categories. Some commonly used generics are listed in parentheses at the end of each entry to assist in understanding the range of cultural and natural entities represented by the term. Refer to the Reference Data Base to retrieve all generics thus far encountered in geographic names compilation. In most instances a plural form is listed as if it were singular; for example, archipelago or islands would be categorized as island. The terms and the definitions are as follows:

- airport - manmade facility maintained for the use of aircraft (airfield, airstrip, landing field, landing strip).
- arch - natural arch-like opening in a rock mass (bridge, natural bridge, sea arch).
- area - any one of several areally extensive natural features not included in other categories (badlands, barren, delta, fan, garden).
- arroyo - watercourse or channel through which water may occasionally flow (coulee, draw, gully, wash).
- bar - natural accumulation of sand, gravel, or alluvium forming an underwater or exposed embankment (ledge, reef, sandbar, shoal, spit).
- basin - natural depression or relatively low area enclosed by higher land (amphitheater, cirque, pit, sink).
- bay - indentation of a coastline or shoreline enclosing a part of a body of water; a body of water partly surrounded by land (arm, bight, cove, estuary, gulf, inlet, sound).
- beach - the sloping shore along a body of water that is washed by waves or tides and is usually covered by sand or gravel (coast, shore, strand).
- bench - area of relatively level land on the flank of an elevation such as a hill, ridge, or mountain where the slope of the land rises on one side and descends on the opposite side (level).
- bend - curve in the course of a stream and (or) the land within the curve; a curve in a linear body of water (bottom, loop, meander).

- bridge - manmade structure carrying a trail, road, or other transportation system across a body of water or depression (causeway, overpass, trestle).
- building - a manmade structure with walls and a roof for protection of people and (or) materials, but not including church, hospital, or school.
- canal - manmade waterway used by watercraft or for drainage, irrigation, mining, or water power (ditch, lateral).
- cape - projection of land extending into a body of water (lea, neck, peninsula, point).
- cave - natural underground passageway or chamber, or a hollowed out cavity in the side of a cliff (cavern, grotto).
- cemetery - a place or area for burying the dead (burial, burying ground, grave, memorial garden).
- channel - linear deep part of a body of water through which the main volume of water flows and is frequently used as a route for watercraft (passage, reach, strait, thoroughfare, throughfare).
- church - building used for religious worship (chapel, mosque, synagogue, tabernacle, temple).
- civil - a political division formed for administrative purposes (borough, county, municipio, parish, town, township).
- cliff - very steep or vertical slope (bluff, crag, head, headland, nose, palisades, precipice, promontory, rim, rimrock).
- crater - circular-shaped depression at the summit of a volcanic cone or one on the surface of the land caused by the impact of a meteorite; a manmade depression caused by an explosion (caldera, lua).
- crossing - a place where two or more routes of transportation form a junction or intersection (overpass, underpass).
- dam - water barrier or embankment built across the course of a stream or into a body of water to control and (or) impound the flow of water (breakwater, dike, jetty).
- falls - perpendicular or very steep fall of water in the course of a stream (cascade, cataract, waterfall).
- flat - relative level area within a region of greater relief (clearing, glade, playa).

- forest - bounded area of woods, forest, or grassland under the administration of a political agency (see woods) (national forest, national grasslands, State forest).
- gap - low point or opening between hills or mountains or in a ridge or mountain range (col, notch, pass, saddle, water gap, wind gap)
- geyser - eruptive spring from which hot water and (or) steam and in some cases mud are periodically thrown.
- glacier - body or stream of ice moving outward and downslope from an area of accumulation; an area of relatively permanent snow or ice on the top or side of a mountain or mountainous area (icefield, ice patch, snow patch).
- gut - relatively small coastal waterway connecting larger bodies of water or other waterways (creek, inlet, slough).
- harbor - sheltered area of water where ships or other watercraft can anchor or dock (hono, port, roads, roadstead).
- hospital - building where the sick or injured may receive medical or surgical attention (infirmary).
- island - area of dry or relatively dry land surrounded by water or low wetland (archipelago, atoll, cay, hammock, hummock, isla, isle, key, moku, rock).
- isthmus - narrow section of land in a body of water connecting two larger land areas.
- lake - natural body of inland water (backwater, lac, lagoon, laguna, pond, pool, resaca, waterhole).
- lava - formations resulting from the consolidation of molten rock on the surface of the Earth (kepula, lava flow).
- levee - natural or manmade embankment flanking a stream (bank, berm).
- locale - place at which there is or was human activity; it does not include populated places, mines, and dams (battlefield, crossroad, camp, farm, ghost town, landing, railroad siding, ranch, ruins, site, station, windmill).
- mine - place or area from which commercial minerals are or were removed from the Earth; not including oilfield (pit, quarry, shaft).
- oilfield - area where petroleum is or was removed from the Earth.
- other - category for miscellaneous named manmade, entities that cannot readily be placed in the other feature classes listed here.

- park - place or area set aside for recreation or preservation of a cultural or natural resource and under some form of government administration; not including National or State forests or Reserves (national historical landmark, national park, State park, wilderness area).
- pillar - vertical, standing, often spire-shaped, natural rock formation (chimney, monument, pinnacle, pohaku, rock tower).
- plain - a region of general uniform slope, comparatively level and of considerable extent (grassland, highland, kula, plateau, upland).
- ppl - (populated place) place or area with clustered or scattered buildings and a permanent human population (city, settlement, town, village).
- range - chain of hills or mountains, a somewhat linear, complex mountainous or hilly area (cordillera, sierra).
- rapids - fast-flowing section of a stream, often shallow and with exposed rock or boulders (riffle, ripple).
- reserve - a tract of land set aside for a specific use (does not include forests, civil divisions, parks).
- reservoir - artificially impounded body of water (lake, tank).
- ridge - elevation with a narrow, elongated crest which can be part of a hill or mountain (crest, cuesta, escarpment, hogback, lae, rim, spur).
- school - building or group of buildings used as an institution for study, teaching, and learning (academy, college, high school, university).
- sea - large body of salt water (gulf, ocean).
- slope - a gently inclined part of the Earth's surface (grade, pitch).
- spring - place where underground water flows naturally to the surface of the Earth (seep).
- stream - linear body of water flowing on the Earth's surface (ana-branch, awawa, bayou, branch, brook, creek, distributary, fork, kill, pup, rio, river, run, slough).
- summit - prominent elevation rising above the surrounding level of the Earth's surface; does not include pillars, ridges, or ranges (ahu, berg, bald, butte, cerro, colina, cone, cumbre, dome, head, hill, horn, knob, knoll, mauna, mesa, mesita, mound, mount, mountain, peak, puu, rock, Sugarloaf, table, volcano).
- swamp - poorly drained wetland, fresh or saltwater, wooded or grassy, possibly covered with open water (bog, cienega, marais, marsh, pocosin).

- trail - route for passage from one point to another; does not include roads or highways (jeep trail, path, ski trail).
- tower - a manmade structure, higher than its diameter, generally used for observation, storage, or electronic transmission.
- tunnel - linear underground passageway open at both ends.
- valley - linear depression in the Earth's surface that generally slopes from one end to the other (barranca, canyon, chasm, cove, draw, glen, gorge, gulch, gulf, hollow, ravine).
- well - manmade shaft or hole in the Earth's surface used to obtain fluid or gaseous materials.
- woods - small area covered with a dense growth of trees; does not include an area of trees under the administration of a political agency (see forest).

APPENDIX C.--Parenthetical Descriptors used with Names

The following terms have been used on USGS topographic maps and other sources to provide additional information or clarity about the name or the feature to which the name refers.

Abandoned
Active Mine
Alkali
Archaeological Site
BLM - refers to Bureau
of Land Management
Campground
Cemetery
Diabase Dike
Dry Spring
Flowing
Foot Bridge
Ghost Town
Historic
Historical
Historical Monument
Historical Ruins
Historic Site
Inactive Mine
Jeep Trail
Mud
Natural Arch
Oil Field
Old Channel
Old Stage Station
Oxbow
P.O. - refers to Post Office
Pack Trail
Placer - refers to mining activities
Polluted Spring
Post Office
Private
Rock Formation
Ruins
Salt Lake
Secondary Name - refers to alternate
or a prior name; for example:
Lake Katy (Old River Lake)
Siding
Site
Station
Submerged Rock
Sulphur Spring
USDA - refers to U.S. Department of
Agriculture
USFS - refers to U.S. Forest Service
USGS - refers to U.S. Geological Survey
1941 - refers to year of occurrence

DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT:

The following are subjective comments regarding this data.

Feature completeness is good, as is attribute completeness. The feature and attribute accuracy is also good. Fifty nine types of features are classified.